

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00089 232207Z

16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05 /023 W

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R 232145Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

SECSTATE WASHDC 614

UNCLAS QUEBEC 89

DEPT FOR A/OC AND EUR/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, ASEC

SUBJECT: UNNECESSARY CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC

1. REFTEL RECEIVED THIS POST AT 1230 TUESDAY, APRIL 20, AS AN IMMEDIATE AND ENCRYPTED TELEGRAM.
2. AS ONLY ONE OFFICER WAS AVAILABLE TO DECODE WITH OUR ANTIQUATED MEANS, I WAS FORCED TO CLOSE CONSULATE GENERAL TO ALL CONSULAR BUSINESS AND PUT HIM TO WORK ON MESSAGE AT 1230. AT 1700, HE WAS JOINED BY SECOND CONSULATE OFFICER WHO HAD BEEN WORKING ON ANOTHER HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT.
3. AT 1900, THEY FINISHED A ROUGH VERSION OF MESSAGE ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT ANSWER WAS DUE IN DEPARTMENT BY 1730. IT TOOK 2 MORE HOURS WEDNESDAY TO FINISH DECODING MESSAGE ENOUGH TO DO REQUESTED CHECKS. THEY WERE NEGATIVE.
4. WHILE I CANNOT JUDGE FROM HERE THE TRUE URGENCY OF THE CASE, THE SEVERLY LIMITED COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITY AVAILABLE AT QUEBEC NECESSITATED CLOSING OFFICE TO PUBLIC AND COMPLI-CATED CONSIDERABLY SEVERAL HIGH-PRIORITY TASKS AT THIS POST. UNTIL POST IS GIVEN IMPROVED EQUIPMENT AND ASSIGNED COMMUNI-CATOR, WOULD REQUEST CAREFUL SCREENING OF ALL MESSAGES WHICH REQUIRE DECRYPTION. EXCEPT IN MOST PRESSING EMERGENCIES, CLASSIFIED MESSAGES SHOULD BE SENT BY POUCH. IF TIMING OF MESSAGE IS CRITICAL, EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE ELIMINATE CLASSIFIED INFO SO MESSAGE CAN BE SENT IN CLEAR.
5. THIS EPISODE DEMONSTRATES AGAIN THE SERIOUS NEED FOR RAPID INSTALLATION MORE MODERN EQUIPMENT AND THE ASSIGNING OF SECRETARY/COMMUNICATOR AT THIS POST.

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MCNAMARA

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL MISSING, BEING SERVICED.

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NNN

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